Identification of organisations spreading communalism

*105. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the organisations which are spreading communal feelings in the country;

(b) if so, the names of these organisations; and

(c) the details of steps taken to ban such organisations?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The activities of all organisations having a bearing on maintenance of communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcement agencies and requisite legal action is taken, where necessary.

Free Electricity Supply to Farmers

*106. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the States which are supplying electricity to farmers free of cost;

(b) whether there is a demand from certain other States that Central Government share the cost of power supply to farmers;

(c) if so, the Central Government's response thereto; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue guidelines to State Governments/ State Electricity Boards to bring about uniformity in this matter throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) as per information available in the Central Electrity Authority presently States of Punjab and Tamil Nadu are supplying Electricity to farmers free of charge.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During the Chief Ministers Conference held in December 1996, Common Minimum Action Plan was drawn up which envisaged that the tariff for agriculture Sector will not be less than 50 P/ KWH to be brought to 50% of average cost of supply in not more than 3 years.

With the enactment of ERC Act. 1998,. the powers to fix the tariff for retail consumers including agriculture sector rests with the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. The State Electricity Regulatorty Commissions while determining the terms and conditions for the fixation of tariff shall be guided interalia by the interests of consumers and shall ensure that the consumers pay for the use of electricity in a reasonable manner based on the average cost of supply of energy.

Court cases filed by defence personnel

*107. SHRI KARMENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been a trend of military officers approaching civil courts for redressal of their grievances relating to service matter;

(b) if so, the number of cases filed by army personnel in civil courts during the last three years, upto 28th February, 1999;

(c) whether Government propose to have a Court of Military Appeals, on the lines of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), for their service matters; and

(d) whether these large number of cases reflect mismanagement within the Services?